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GW Hosts Onboard 'Partnership' Reception

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USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles - USS George Washington (CVN 73) (GW) hosted a reception for distinguished visitors April 15 while anchored in the Great Bay area of St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles.

"I could not be more pleased with the warmth and hospitality that we have received since arriving here," said Capt. Garry R. White, GW's commanding officer.

Guests included Rear Adm. Joseph Kilkenny, Commander, George Washington Carrier Strike Group, who encouraged the the local population to interact with Sailors during their four day port call to the Caribbean island. "Please find out from them what we are all about," he said. "You will find them to be just as thrilled about you as you are of them."

Guests were greeted at the fleet landing facility and ferried to the ship. Once on board, guests were treated to food prepared by GW's culinary specialists, ice sculptures and a local steel drum band. More than 100 chiefs and officers from GW were on hand at the event and had a chance to talk with the guests.

"It is great to see us merge as one people, knowing that we are all sharing the same goal," said Lt Rodney Moss, GW's fuels division officer, who sat in to play backup drums for the band.

Guests also had an opportunity to ride one of GW's aircraft elevators to the flight deck to observe evening colors.

Partnership of the Americas is a maritime training and readiness deployment of U.S. Naval forces with countries from the Caribbean and Latin America, in support of U.S. Southern Command objectives for enhanced maritime security.